



September 6, 2016

John Greenewald
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

I am writing in further response to your Freedom of Information Act request of August 17, 2016 for records in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration. Your request for FBI case file 94-HQ-51634 on Richard Thomas Condon was received in this office on August 19, 2016 and assigned FOIA case number 50846.

I have completed a line-by-line review of FBI case file 94-HQ-51634. As reviewed under the terms of the FOIA, the file is open in full and available for research use. Due to the small size of the file (14 pages), a free copy has been included for your convenience.

You requested that we search for additional FBI files on Richard Condon that we may have in our possession. NARA currently only has the capability of searching the indexes to the FBI field office files. We have searched the indexes for "Richard Condon," "Richard T. Condon," and "Richard Thomas Condon." We have found no additional files that are within NARA's holdings. We do not consider this to be a denial of your rights under the terms of the FOIA, since we have determined that we have no additional responsive files within our holdings. However, if you consider this to be a denial of your rights, you may file an appeal.

If you are not satisfied with our action on this request, you have the right to file an administrative appeal within ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Appeals must be in writing and may be delivered by regular U.S. mail or by e-mail. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under the FOIA and give the deciding agency a chance to review your request and reconsider its decision. If you submit your appeal by regular mail, it should be addressed to the Deputy Archivist of the United States (ND), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 4200, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. Both the letter and envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If you submit your appeal by e-mail, please send it to foia@nara.gov, addressed to the Deputy Archivist, with the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject line. Please be certain to explain why you believe this response does not meet the requirements of the FOIA. All communications concerning this request should reference your case tracking number 50846.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss our response and attempt to resolve your dispute without initiating the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison for assistance:

Accessioned Executive Branch Records – Washington, DC Area
FOIA Requester Service Center: 301-837-3190
FOIA Public Liaison: Martha Wagner Murphy
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500
College Park, MD 20740-6001

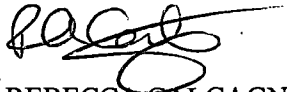
Telephone: 301-837-3270
E-mail: dc.foia.liaison@nara.gov

If you are unable to resolve your dispute through our Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is the federal FOIA ombudsman. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies. You may contact OGIS at the following address:

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510
College Park, MD 20740-6001
ogis@nara.gov
202-741-5770
1-877-684-6448

This concludes the processing of your request. If you have additional questions concerning my review of this file, please contact me directly at Rebecca.Calcagno@nara.gov.

Sincerely,



REBECCA CALCAGNO
Archivist
Special Access and FOIA Staff

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT
DESTROY

FOIPA #

443290

Closed 7/26/89

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

94-HQ-51634-1



Serials 1-

94-

HQ-51634

Sec. 1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: September 2, 1958

FROM : M. A. Jones

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Nease	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

SUBJECT: RICHARD CONDON

Richard T. Condon

BACKGROUND: You will recall that the New York Office by airtels dated 8/12/58 indicated that the above-captioned individual had been interviewed on 8/4/58 in connection with the case entitled "Per-Olow Wilhelm Anderson, was., Registration Act." At that time he indicated that he was an author of a book entitled "The Oldest Confession." He added that he expected to have a book entitled "The Manchurian Candidate" released in February, 1959, by McGraw-Hill Company. (Condon indicated that the book would deal with a Soviet plot to have the President of the United States assassinated by a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. He stated that in the book intelligence agencies such as CIA, G-2 and the FBI, on the basis of available facts, find it difficult to determine what is the Soviet interest in the Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Eventually, he said, this riddle is solved by the FBI. Condon pointed out that the book was then only in rough draft form.)

On 8/12/58, Condon telephonically contacted the New York Office and asked for the Bureau's terminology used to indicate a "general alarm." Condon was advised that data concerning internal operations of the FBI could not be revealed. Condon indicated that he probably would write to the Bureau for information.

A review of Bureau files failed to indicate any data identifiable with Condon. As a result, the New York Office by letter dated August 20, 1958, was requested to conduct a discreet background check on Condon.

RESULTS OF NEW YORK BACKGROUND CHECK: By letter dated 8/27/58, the New York Office advised that credit records reflect that Richard T. and Evelyn Hunt Condon reside at 390 West End Avenue, New York. His business was shown as "publicity and author," Stanley Kramer Distributing Corporation, New York City. Previous employment since January, 1944, was indicated as President and Principal of "Richard Condon, Inc.," now dissolved. The credit report contained no derogatory data. Most current credit report reflects business with United Artists Corp., New York.

The New York Office further advised that Condon has served as a free lance publicity expert, writer and play producer. He was national coordinator of publicity for the movie, "Samson and Delilah," and also served as publicity director for Disney and 20th Century Fox. He also was listed as associate producer

FCS:cjc

(3) 7 SEP 17 1958

EX-135

(memo continued on next page)

Jones to Nease memorandum

of "Stalag 17" and in 1951 was associate producer of "20th Century" a play produced on Broadway. The "New York Times" story on 5/12/53 reported Condon's first play entitled "Men of Distinction" closed after the fourth performance with the comment that reviewers to a man found the play about the unsavory doings of cafe society characters too unpalatable for their tastes.

To date the Bureau is not in receipt of any communication from Condon requesting assistance in the preparation of his proposed book, "The Manchurian Candidate," in which, as indicated above, the FBI is mentioned.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be considered, in the event Condon does contact the Bureau, in determining whether we will cooperate with him in any manner.



SAC, New York

August 20, 1958

Director, FBI

REC-97

94-51634-2
RICHARD CONDON

EX-108

Reference is made to your airtels dated August 12, 1958, captioned "Per-Olow Wilhelm Anderson, was, Registration Act" in which Condon is mentioned. You should discreetly determine background, reliability and character of Condon, setting forth also available data in your files concerning him. Under no circumstances should Condon become aware of your inquiry. Submit reply under above caption, attention Crime Records, no later than 9-2-58.

Follow-up made for 9-2-58

RECEIVED
FBI
SEP 1 1958

NOTE: See Jones to Nease memo dated 8-20-58 captioned "Richard Condon."

WB510HE2

RW
Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
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Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

FCS:pmk
(5)

SEP 23 1958

MAIL ROOM

MAILED 31
AUG 20 1958
COMM-FBI

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease *[initials]*

FROM : M. A. Jones *[initials]*

SUBJECT: RICHARD CONDON

DATE: August 20, 1958

Tolson _____

Boardman _____

Belmont _____

Mohr _____

Nease _____

Parsons _____

Rosen _____

Tamm _____

Trotter _____

Clayton _____

Tele. Room _____

Holloman _____

Gandy _____

f 2-1

New York Office in airtels dated 8-12-58 indicated that the above-captioned individual had been interviewed on 8-4-58 in connection with the case entitled "Per-Olow Wilhelm Anderson, was, Registration Act." His address was given as 390 West End Avenue, New York City. During the interview he indicated that he was an author of a book entitled "The Oldest Confession." He added that he expected to have a book entitled "The Manchurian Candidate" released in February, 1959, by McGraw-Hill Company. Condon indicated that the book would deal with a Soviet plot to have the President of the United States assassinated by a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. He stated that during the course of the book intelligence agencies such as CIA, G-2 and the FBI, on the basis of available facts, find it difficult to determine what is the Soviet interest in the Congressional Medal of Honor winner. He stated that eventually this riddle is solved by the FBI. Condon pointed out that the book was only in rough draft form at the present time.

On August 12, 1958, Condon telephonically contacted the New York Office and asked for the Bureau's terminology for "General Alarm." Condon was advised that data concerning internal operations of the FBI could not be revealed. Condon indicated that he probably would write to the Bureau, for information. *my sf*

A review of Bufiles failed to indicate any information identifiable with Condon.

It is felt that the Bureau should possess background information concerning Condon as Condon may request the Bureau's assistance in the writing of his book. It is felt that the New York Office should be requested to conduct a discreet inquiry concerning Condon.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to New York Office

Enclosure

FCS:pmk *pmk*
(5) *[initials]*

REC-97 108

20 SEP 12 1958

CRIME REC

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATT: CRIME RECORDS

DATE: 8/27/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (94-1178)

SUBJECT: RICHARD CONDON

ReBulet 8/20/58.

Condon

JR

The records of the Retail Credit Association of NY contain a report on RICHARD T. and EVELYN HUNT CONDON JR. with residence shown as 390 West End Ave., NY. The report reflects that the subject is married with two dependent children. His business is shown as "Publicity and Author", Stanley Kramer Distributing Corp., 729 7th Ave., NYC. Previous employment since January, 1944 was indicated as President and Principal of "Richard Condon, Inc.," now dissolved. The most current credit report reflects business with United Artists Corp. at 729 7th Ave., NY. There was no derogatory information contained in this report.

At the Theatre Section of the NYC Public Library a newspaper and magazine clipping file on RICHARD CONDON was reviewed. This file reflected that CONDON was a free lance publicity expert, a writer and a producer of plays. He was national coordinator of publicity for the productions, Samson and Delilah; publicity director for Disney and 20th Century Fox; and during the war devoted much time gratis to national defense publicity. His major reputation was stated to be mastermind of top flight cinema production. A "New York Times" clipping dated 2/4/53 reflected that CONDON resigned his RKO post as Director of Advertising, Publicity and Exploitation, a position he held since last October. He was associate producer of the comedy play entitled "Stalag 17"; and in 1951 he was associate producer of "20th Century" a play produced on Broadway starring JOSE FERRER and GLORIA SWANSON. A "New York Times" article on 5/2/53 reported that CONDON's first play called, "Men of Distinction" closed after the 4th performance with the comment that reviewers to a man found RICHARD CONDON's first play about the unsavory doings of cafe society characters too unpalatable for their tastes. CONDON is also the author of a book entitled "The Confession".

REC-97

2-Bureau
1-NY (94-1178)

REC'D

RJK:EEC

NW: 15824 SEP 22 1958 5 Page 6

Letter to Director, FBI
NY 94-1178

A check of the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the NYPD reflected no record of the subject. NY files contain no additional information which can be identified with the subject.

EX-138

REC-26

November 16, 1962

NOV 16 2 23 PM '62
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

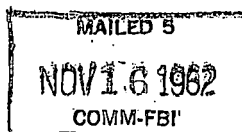
Mr. Donald R. Ackermann
2202 Seventh Street
Piscataway, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ackermann:

Your letter of November 5th was received during Mr. Hoover's absence.

I have been in contact with him, however, and he asked that I write and tell you he cannot, as a matter of policy, comment concerning the film, "Manchurian Candidate," as the FBI had no connection with its preparation. He expressed his regrets that he cannot be of assistance in this instance and hopes you will understand his position.

Sincerely yours,



Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

NOTE: Prior limited but cordial correspondence with Ackermann in 1953. No record in Bufiles of film "Manchurian Candidate." Bufile 94-51634 reflects one Richard Condon, New York City, informed in 1958 he was then preparing a book entitled "The Manchurian Candidate." Condon indicated that the book would deal with a Soviet plot to have the President of the United States assassinated.

Note continued next page

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RMW:jks (3)

NOV 27 1962

DocId: 70100045 Page 8
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Donald R. Ackermann

by a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. He stated that in the book intelligence agencies such as CIA, G-2 and the FBI, on the basis of available facts, find it difficult to determine what is the Soviet interest in the Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Eventually, he said, this riddle is solved by the FBI. Condon pointed out that the book was then only in rough draft form.

Inquiries by the New York Office revealed he has served as a free lance publicity expert, writer and play producer. He has been affiliated with Walt Disney Studios and 20th Century Fox Film Corporation.

TRUE COPY

DONALD R. ACKERMANN
Professional Land Surveyor

2202 Seventh Street
Piscataway, N.J.
P.O. New Brunswick

Nov. 5, 1962

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

A few days ago, I viewed the motion picture entitled "Manchurian Candidate". As you probably know, it deals with the Communist conspiracy. I thought the picture was very good in every respect except one. I felt, that in spite of the story being perhaps 90% true, it helped the Communist cause.

To begin with, the senator, who was supposedly investigating communism, was really only furthering his own political career. He was made up to be an incompetent, loud-mouthed dunce controlled by his unscrupulous, capitalistic wife.

They couldn't make up their minds as to how many communists they would charge were in a certain cabinet. If I remember correctly, reference to the state department was avoided. For some strange reason, the figure of 57 was "arbitrarily" settled upon, the exact number McCarthy said he claimed in his speech at Wheeling, West Virginia. This is a "coincidence"? As a matter of fact, I believe the first figure used in the picture was 205, which was again, by "coincidence", the figure McCarthy's opponents claimed he gave.

In addition to this, the senator's wife is sued \$65,000.00 by a supposedly left-wing senator for defamation of character. The left-wing senator makes a joke out of the fact, that the thing that bothered her most was his giving the \$65,000.00 to the American Civil Liberties Union. It leaves the impression, that this was a generous and good thing he did, and that this organization must also be good, since in the end he

*In absence
11-16-62
RMW:jke*
NW: 15824 DocId: 60100045 Page 10

looks like a patriot when compared to her. The vast majority of the audience is not aware of the fact, that this organization was at one time on the Attorney Generals list of subversive organizations.

The final punchline comes, when the anti-communist fighter, the wife, turns out to be the communist agent, who is taking advantage of American anti-communist sentiment to seize power. The audience gasped.

I think the main effect it had upon the audience was to confuse, divide, demoralize and neutralize them. If there were any in the audience, who were perhaps thinking of becoming active in the fight against Communist subversion, they would have second thoughts about it. They would not know whom to believe or what to believe. They'd be afraid of making a wrong move.

I think without a doubt, that the picture did a disservice to honest, sincere, hardworking anti-communists. It will only serve to take from them that much more support, when they need all the support they can get.

I do not believe my imagination has run away with me. Please let me know what your feelings are concerning this picture, and whether or not in your opinion, I have arrived at sensible conclusions.

If it is as fruitful for the Communists as I think it is, should not something be done about it? I hope to receive your personal reply. Thank you.

Very truly yours

Donald R. Ackermann

DONALD R. ACKERMANN
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
2202 SEVENTH STREET
PISCATAWAY, N. J.
P. O. NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
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Nov. 5, 1962

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NW 15824 DocId:70100045 Page 12

REC-26

94-5163

10 NOV 13 1962

CORRESPONDENCE

in memo
ack 11-16-62
RMW

DONALD R. ACKERMANN
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

2202 SEVENTH STREET

PISCATAWAY, N. J.

P. O. NEW BRUNSWICK

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DONALD R. ACKERMANN
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
2202 SEVENTH STREET
PISCATAWAY, N. J.
P. O. NEW BRUNSWICK

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Donald R. Ackermann